

Ten years ago

Together, we faced the tragedy of our time

By Maggie Lloyd
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Today's MIT undergraduate population was at a delicate age on Sept. 11, 2001. Spanning the boundary between elementary school and junior high, we were old enough to understand what physically happened but far too young to fully comprehend the political and international significance of the attacks.

A lot has changed at MIT since then, but the memory of MIT's response remains strong on campus. Some of those who were on campus 10 years ago remember how an already difficult day was made more complicated by the absence of two top senior administrators: Pro-

vost Robert A. Brown was across the country for a conference, and President Charles M. Vest wasn't even in the country.

For the first time in his career, Vest was on vacation during the school year, celebrating birthdays with his wife and four other couples in Banff, Canada. On the morning of September 11, he saw the early reports on CNN but had to leave with his tour group before hearing more about the situation. Vice President and Secretary of the MIT Corporation Kathryn A. Willmore called him while

9/11, Page 9

REX sees hiccups, but still a success

Irene, REX guides cause some trouble

By Rebecca Han
STAFF REPORTER

Orientation is always an exciting time. 2011 was no exception.

After several days of free food and fun, Residential Exploration (REX) came to an end with the closing of the freshmen adjustment lottery on Tuesday, Aug. 31 at 4 p.m. But the closing ceremonies for orientation were on Saturday, Sept. 3 — a day early due to the threat from Hurricane Irene.

Concern over Irene caused a last-minute closing of the MIT campus on Sunday, Aug. 28. As a result, the Killian "kick-off" was delayed, and convocation was completely cancelled. "[Convocation] is one of the 'bookends,' along with Commencement," said Elizabeth C. Young, Dean of the Undergraduate Academic Advising Program (UAAP). "It's a way to welcome freshmen and their parents to campus."

Despite the cancellation, President Susan J. Hockfield still had a chance to address the Class of 2015 at the faculty keynote on Tuesday.

Though the orientation schedule changes were clearly posted on the Class of 2015 "First Year" website, and the Orientation Guide (also known as the Hitchhiker's Guide) was updated online, changes in dormitory-specific events were not as well communicated. Not all dormitories cancelled their Sunday activities, and those that did were not able to promptly update the Dormitory Council (DormCon) issued REX Guide, which provided a comprehensive list of the daily events hosted by individual dorms around campus.

Some students enjoyed the unexpected respite, taking the time to relax and explore their current dorm.

REX, Page 15

Class of 2015 is typical, or better, on GIR ASEs

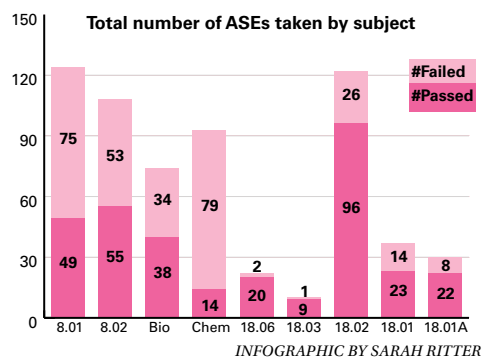
Freshmen do well overall, place out of more physics GIRs with AP/IB credit

By Patreece H. Suen

The class of 2015 has outshone previous classes on several Advanced Standing Exams this year. A higher number of students in this year's freshmen class are also placing out of General Institute Requirements through sufficient scores from AP and IB exams.

As it has been in past years, the most common ASEs taken were 18.01 (Single Variable Calculus), 18.02 (Multivariable Calculus), 8.01 (Classical Mechanics), 8.02 (Electricity and Magnetism), 7.012 (Biology), and 5.111 (Principles of Chemical Science).

The number of students who passed the physics ASEs this year was "perfectly normal," said Krishna Rajagopal, associate head for education in the Physics Department. Of the 124 freshmen who sat for the 8.01 ASE, 49 students passed; for the 8.02 ASE, 55 out of 108 passed. These numbers are slightly lower than last year, when 49 out of 89 students passed the 8.01 ASE and 68 out of 87 passed 8.02.



However, the number of students who received MIT credit or placement into higher-level classes granted from AP and IB scores was "way up from previous years," Rajagopal said.

"We in the physics department are absolutely delighted," he added. "The admissions office has attracted students whose physics background is stronger than before, which is great."

Biology saw a marked improvement in passing

scores this year as well. "The percentage of students who passed this year [51 percent] was higher than in previous years," said Janice Chang, the Associate Administrator for the Biology Department. A total of 38 students passed out of the 74 students who took the 7.012 ASE. Last year, less than 20 percent of students taking the biology ASE passed.

The 18.01 ASE had a 62 percent pass rate. Because more students are testing out of 18.01, fall enrollment for 18.02 is higher than before.

"The incoming class is more competitive and better prepared," said Jeffrey Kinnamon, the Associate Administrator for the Mathematics Department.

The 5.111 ASE had a similar pass rate compared to last year — 14 out of 93 students passed, or about 15 percent (last year was around 14 percent).

Students planning on taking ASEs for the spring semester must complete an ASE petition form and contact the appropriate departments to find out when specific exams are offered. Check http://web.mit.edu/registrar/classrooms/exams/ase_exams.html for more information.

MIT fined \$175K after FedEx fire

Package with Li. batteries catches fire in Medford

By John A. Hawkinson
STAFF REPORTER

The Federal Aviation Administration is proposing a \$175,000 fine for MIT, as a result of a CSAIL researcher shipping 33 devices with lithium batteries via FedEx in a box not labelled for hazardous materials — a violation of federal law. The box caught fire at FedEx's Medford, Mass., facility on Aug. 25, 2009.

FedEx fire, Page 11



SAMIRA DASWANI

Freshmen stand, kneel and sit on the floor at the back of 26-100 during the first lecture of 7.012. The fall semester biology GIR spilled over the 566-seat capacity of 26-100, though there was no overflow room, as is typical for the class.

IN SHORT

A September 11 memorial service will be held in Lobby 10 this Sunday at 8:30 a.m. The ceremony will continue outside to lower the flag in Killian Court. Be on time, as a moment of silence will be held at 8:46 a.m.

Today is the last day to register for classes. All registration forms turned in after 5 p.m. today will be considered late and subject to a \$50 fee.

The APO book exchange

ends today. Buy your remaining textbooks at W20-415 from noon to 5 p.m.

Election packets for the UA are due Monday 9/12 for students running for Senate and the 2015 class council. Packets can be found online at <http://ua.mit.edu>.

PE classes begin on Monday. Don't forget to attend the first day of class to maintain your spot!

Send news information and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.

ARE WE ANY SAFER TODAY?

Anonymous warfare threatens an already-delicate balancing act.
OPINION, p. 4

MEET YOUR INNER SOX

Everything you need to know about Beantown's team. **SPORTS, p. 16**

ABORTION RIGHTS ARE RIGHT

The anti-abortion case ignores womens' freedoms. **OPINION, p. 4**



YOUR FAVORITE MICE ARE BACK!

After summer hiatus, Unnatural Selection's adorableness returns.
FUN, p. 6

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Women deserve abortion rights

'Pro-life' advocacy is really about control of women

Abortion, from Page 4

ability to do so does not change when life starts or ends.

Normandin accuses abortion-rights people of "putting a higher value on [the woman's] life than [on] that of the child." Between many other statements in his column, this one is refreshingly true. Yes, I do put a value on a woman's life. I also do not put any more value on somebody else's fetus than I do on somebody else's egg or sperm cells. There is some value, but it is very different from the value of a human life. That does not mean that I rule out the ability to care about a particular fetus — or an egg cell, for that matter. People have the right to choose what to do with their reproductive abilities as they see fit, and I am completely for protecting that right and making sure everyone in the society can exercise it freely.

I disagree with people who do not care strongly enough to even get their biological facts right, and who feel so self-righteous that they put a higher value on a part of a woman's body than on her person and her life. There really is a choice here: the one between being a feel-good crusader for the fiction of "the lives of unborn children," and learning a little bit more about people around you. The fantasy world of profile activists is very comforting. It just does not have anything to do with the actual protection of human life.

But let us return to facts once more. Normandin says that it is just “a claim” that banning abortion leads to back-alley abortions.

Well, the last time I checked, there was plenty of evidence out there. If you are too lazy to learn the facts, it does not just make them “claims.” The parts of the world where abortion is largely illegal — such as Latin America and Africa — have higher rates of abortion than the U.S., and maternal mortality from abortion is hundreds of times higher. Other countries have experimented with banning abortion, including the USSR in the 1930s under Stalin and Romania in the 1970s under Ceausescu. Maternal mortality from illegal abortions soared, but that

The anti-abortion movement has roots in the strands of Christianity, where women are supposed to remain domestic, weak and submissive to men, especially in public. According to their world view, women should not use contraception.

does not mean abortion became rarer. In fact, ex-USSR countries and Romania are among the world champions competing for the highest abortion rate. Banning abortion leads not to making abortion rarer, but to making it more frequent.

The ending of Normandin's column counters that preemptively. He says, discussing the harm of illegal abortions, "if the mother contracts an infection because of her illegal acts, that is unfortunate, but when you do something illegal, you know the risks." To put it more bluntly, "I don't care if you die because I banned abortion."

It is your fault, you evil murderer!" This underscores the whole set of convictions of the column's author: the harm to women just does not enter the picture. It is simply irrelevant. Let those women die; they asked for it. Who is the bigger, more ruthless murderer here?

I'd be happy if that set of convictions was rare, but it is not. And it comes in a pretty comprehensive package of beliefs that many anti-abortion activists share. The anti-abortion movement has roots in the strands of Christianity, where women

are supposed to remain domestic, weak and submissive to men, especially in public. According to their world view, women should not use contraception. Many anti-abortion activists are also anti-contraception activists, fighting for the right of pharmacists to refuse selling contraception on grounds of conscience. At times, it really makes me wonder: What will they come up with next? Maybe mandatory euthanasia for women who cannot bear children or provide sexual gratification for their husband and protectors?

Sadly, what all this “pro-life case” is

about is control over women. It is about making women less than full people. It is not even about fetuses — they are just an excuse. A hundred years ago it used to be about the right to vote. Today, it is about abortion rights. But one thing has not changed: the people — both men and women alike — who want to keep women oppressed do not care for a scientific investigation of the matter. They do not care about other human beings. They are selfish and ignorant.

I am sorry for using very harsh language in this reply. But I feel it is necessary in this case. When two males on the newspaper's opinion page discuss a question that directly affects all women's lives with almost academic detachment, what I think about is how I often cry hearing real people's stories about illegal abortions and abortions that lead to societal and internalized stigma. What I want to ask them is how can they live with themselves? How can they be so blind and deaf? It is an offense against morality to ignore people's suffering, to talk as if it is just not there. It is arrogance to decide for other people what is better for them. It is overwhelming pride to use self-serving fantasies to justify the harm you do.

Women have the right to be in full control of what they do with their bodies. They also have the right to be spared from being talked about in the manner Normandin did — as if they just were not there, as if their lives were not worth protecting.

Igor Yanovich is a graduate student in the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy.

Like fighting in the dark

Anonymous warfare threatens a delicate international balance

National security, from Page 4

fundamentally different from wars fought with sticks and spears. What use is a balance of power theory when applied to relationships between nuclear powers? What prevents a scrappy nuclear state, outnumbered ten-to-one, from achieving the same level of security as a superpower?

It took decades to come to grips with nuclear doctrine, and in the time we spent discovering Kahn and Schelling, we lost trillions of dollars, thousands of lives, and risked the sum of our societies in needless confrontations. And in the end, we lucked out. The model of international relations we had going into the Cold War at least gave us forewarning; we might not have known what to do in a nuclear era, but, having identified states as the principal actors in the world order, we had bureaus of men like George Kennan to deliver us treatises on the Soviet mindset.

This time around, we'll get no *Long Telegram* because there is no embassy to telegram from. Our warnings are coming in the form of panicked reports of intensifying cyber warfare and increasing volumes of weapons-grade nuclear material on the black market. We are facing a paradigm shift just as important as that brought

about by nuclear-tipped ICBMs. For the first time in history, we are looking at the possibility of large-scale anonymous war — war fought with means that negate deterrence because they obfuscate the identity of the attacker. And we have no guarantee that our opponents will be states — as technology proliferates, we will increasingly see sub-state entities with access to anonymous warfare capabilities.

The best example of this new form of warfare is Stuxnet, the computer worm engineered to destroy Iran's nuclear enrichment program. Stuxnet broke new ground in cyber warfare — this was an attack on an off-grid asset that the Iranians presumably took great care to secure. The technique used to penetrate Iranian enrichment facilities and cause them to self-destruct could just as easily be used to cripple an electric grid, turn a petroleum refinery into a smoldering ruin, or cause a nuclear plant to go prompt critical like Chernobyl. But the most important feature of the Stuxnet attack is not its destructive potential — it's that identifying the author of Stuxnet or a similar attack is nearly impossible.

Without the spectre of retaliation, states are likely to shed many of their inhibitions toward conflict. What is to prevent the United States, convinced that China steals

jobs from America, from sabotaging Chinese industry by launching Stuxnet-style attacks on Chinese commercial factories? Assuming China identifies the events as the work of an attacker, it might logically deduce that one of its enemies is responsible. But which one? The U.S.? Japan? Russia? Or maybe some angry dissidents? And vice versa — if the U.S. electrical grid turned off tomorrow, who would we blame, and how would we respond? Against such assaults, there is usually little else to do but absorb them and fall behind in the march of nations.

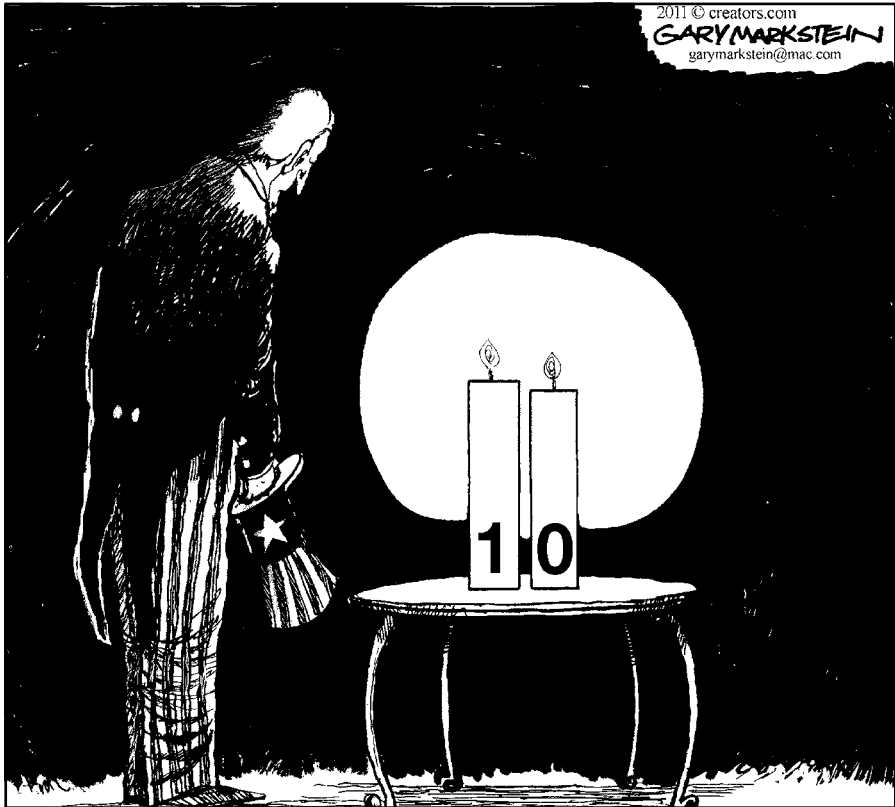
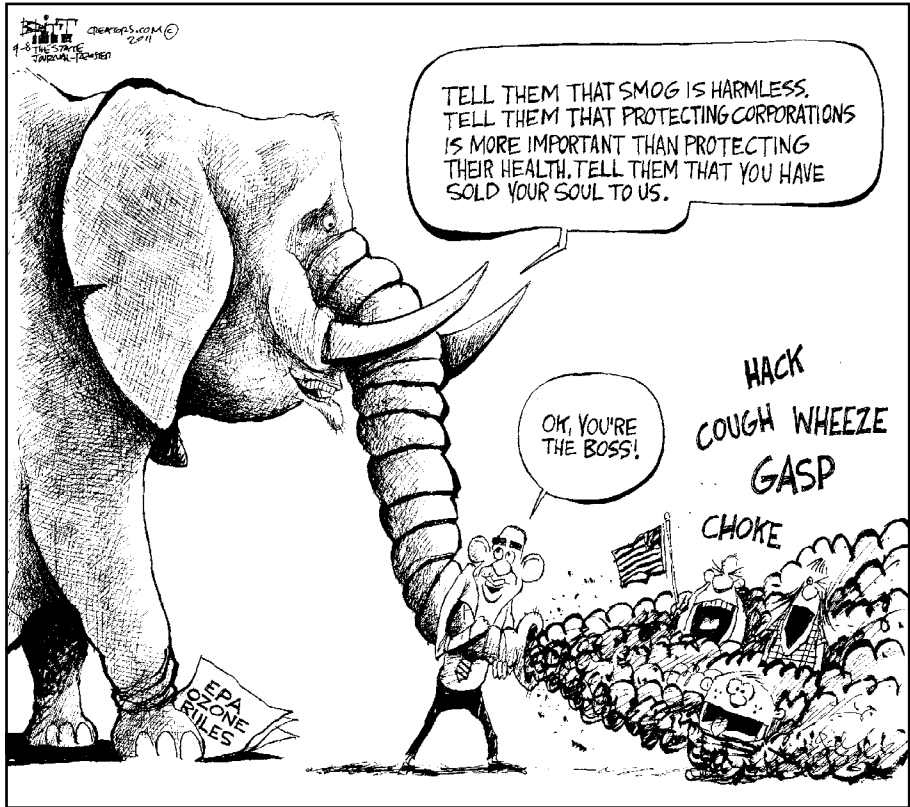
Without the spectre of retaliation, states are likely to shed many of their inhibitions toward conflict.

It's not just cyber war that can be made anonymous — as nuclear weapons proliferate, it becomes harder and harder to assign authorship to an act of nuclear terrorism. If the Soviets had been able to smuggle a nuclear weapon into the United States and vaporize New York, they couldn't shrug their shoulders when the

U.S. looked for vengeance — the rogues gallery capable of such an attack was just too small. But as the nuclear club expands, deterrence against such attacks is weakened. And if the plotters are a sub-state entity, like Al-Qaeda, then deterrence may be a moot point anyway.

Put 20 men in a room together with knives, and foreign policy experts will give you a dozen theories on how to keep the peace between them — collective security arrangements, balancing alliances, shared cultural bonds, and so on. But we've yet to find an international system that can offer security once the lights in that room have been turned off — in the pitch black of anonymous warfare, maybe the only road to safety is to stab 19 people. That is the grim future that the U.S. must work to avert.

We are the hegemon that sets the rules and dictates the structure of the international system. But such power does not last forever. There is limited time to grapple with this new form of conflict, prepare ourselves and the international order for its effects, and find ways to fight the technological trends that empower anonymous warfare. Sadly, this is a challenge that the U.S. of September 11, 2011, does not appear ready to face.



SO WITH THE NEW SYSTEM, YOUR JOB CAN GO TO ANY PRINTER AT THE SAME TIME. THINK ABOUT IT. ALL NETWORKED TOGETHER, SENTIENCE, COMPLEX THOUGHTS... SCARY?

IT'S THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES. HOW HAVE YOU ALREADY LOST ENOUGH SLEEP TO GO CRAZY?

JAMMED? SERIOUSLY? I CAN'T EVEN GET INSIDE THIS THING!

ERROR 602: YES NO
BUY ME A DRINK FIRST.

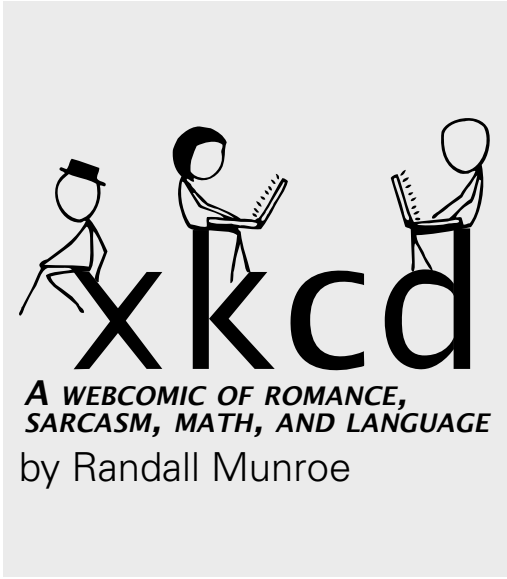
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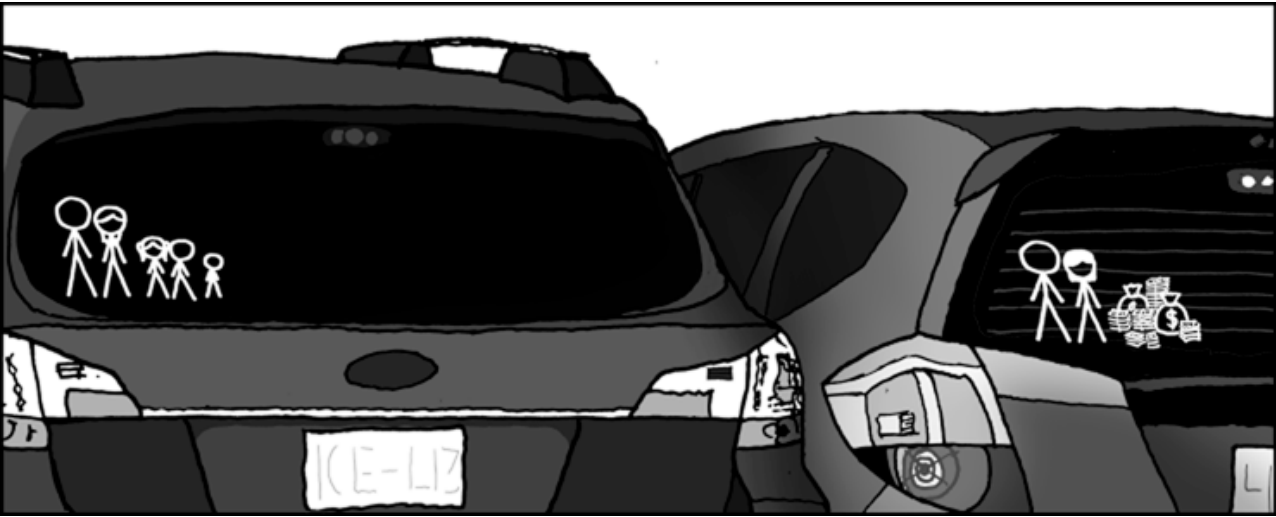
I THINK IT LIKES YOU.

WHIRRRRRRR

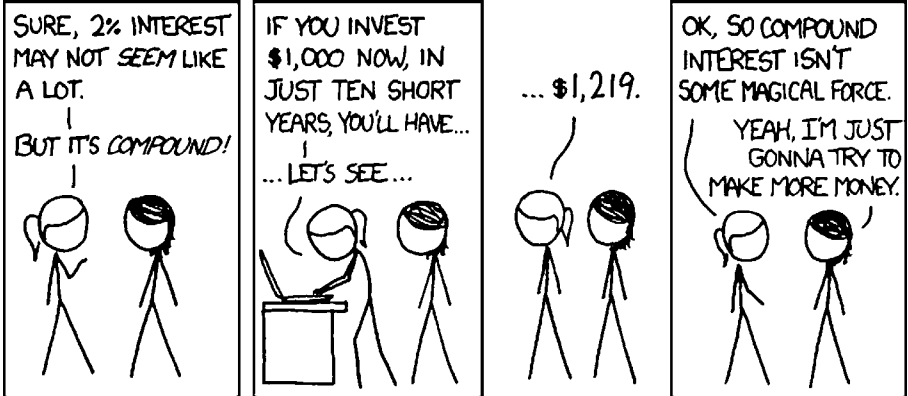
Michael Benitez 9-9-11



[946] Family Decals



[947] Investing



Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 11

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | | | | | | 15 | | | | | | 16 | | |
| 17 | | | | | 18 | | | | | | | 19 | | |
| 20 | | | | | | | | 21 | | | 22 | | | |
| | | | 23 | | | 24 | 25 | | | 26 | | | | |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | | | | 30 | | | | 31 | | | | |
| 32 | | | | 33 | 34 | | | | 35 | | | | 36 | 37 |
| 38 | | | 39 | | 40 | | | 41 | | | 42 | | | |
| 43 | | | | 44 | | | 45 | | | 46 | | 47 | | |
| | | 48 | | | | 49 | | | | 50 | 51 | | | |
| 52 | 53 | | | | | 54 | | | 55 | | | | | |
| 56 | | | | | 57 | | | | 58 | | | 59 | 60 | 61 |
| 62 | | | | 63 | | | 64 | 65 | | | | | | |
| 66 | | | | 67 | | | | | | 68 | | | | |
| 69 | | | | 70 | | | | | | 71 | | | | |

ACROSS

- 1 Texas mission
6 Composers' grp.
11 __-fi
14 De Brunhoff's
elephant
15 Mythical weeper
16 Forever and a day
17 Newlywed's
transport?
19 Nuptial lead-in
20 Will contents
21 Symbol of
Communism
23 Blades to cut blades
26 Leaning
27 Open sore
30 Agile deer
31 Toshiba rival
32 Neighbor of Isr.
33 Wound cover
35 Unchanging
38 Israeli resort
40 Our country, slangily
42 Created
43 Change postal maps
45 165, once
47 Negative link
48 Singer Sumac
49 Scare word

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 50 Twistable joint | 13 Motionless |
| 52 Pale | 18 Actor Ayres |
| 54 Not close-minded about | 22 Word with engine or bath |
| 56 Storage rooms | 24 Big times |
| 58 Helmet | 25 Peter Weller movie |
| 62 Old salt | 27 Manipulator |
| 63 Racketeer's transport? | 28 Singer Lovett |
| 66 Approves | 29 Native American transport? |
| 67 Attempter | 34 Pool stick |
| 68 "Tomorrow" musical | 35 Coltrane's instrument |
| 69 Born | 36 Adored one |
| 70 Maternally related | 37 Beak's fleshy adjunct |
| 71 Simpleton | 39 Big books |

DOWN

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 French cleric | 46 City in Rome |
| 2 "I Remember Mama" | 49 __-Herzegovina |
| character | 51 Emphatic refusal |
| 3 Somewhat | 52 Respond to |
| 4 " __ Butterfly" | 53 Quench |
| 5 Noted speakers | 55 PMs |
| 6 Leaf-cutter, e.g. | 57 Small gull |
| 7 Knight's title | 59 Ranch worker |
| 8 Rough | 60 LSD, to users |
| 9 Irish Rose's love | 61 Those people |
| 10 Hanging ornament | 64 Place to surf |
| 11 Sanitation transport? | 65 Dander |
| 12 Strong pink | |

- 13 Motionless
18 Actor Ayres
22 Word with engine or bath
24 Big times
25 Peter Weller movie
27 Manipulator
28 Singer Lovett
29 Native American transport?
34 Pool stick
35 Coltrane's instrument
36 Adored one
37 Beak's fleshy adjunct
39 Big books
41 Ice on the move
44 Actress Fabray
46 City in Rome
49 __-Herzegovina
51 Emphatic refusal
52 Respond to
53 Quench
55 PMs
57 Small gull
59 Ranch worker
60 LSD, to users
61 Those people
64 Place to surf
65 Dander

Sudoku

Solution, page 11

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| 2 | | | | 3 | | 4 | 1 | |
| | 1 | 9 | 7 | 4 | | | | 6 |
| 6 | | | | | | 3 | 5 | |
| 9 | | | 1 | | 6 | | | 8 |
| | 5 | 7 | | | | | | 9 |
| 7 | | | | 1 | 2 | 5 | 8 | |
| | 8 | 5 | | 9 | | | | 1 |
| | | | | | 4 | | | |

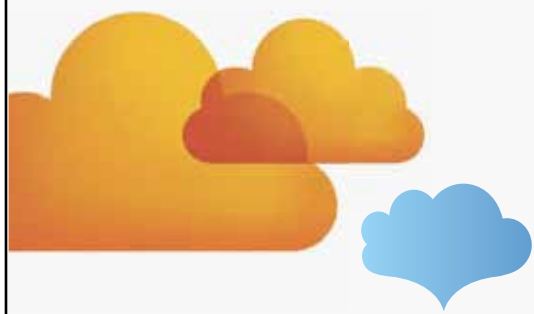
Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Techdoku

Solution, page 11

| | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|
| 22+ | | | 12+ | | | 2- |
| | 21x | | 5x | 140x | | |
| 12x | | 2x | | 2 | | 42x |
| | 9+ | | 2÷ | | 90x | |
| 5 | | 20+ | | | | 5x |
| 2 | | 7 | | 1 | | |
| 28x | | 5 | | 2÷ | | |

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.



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Ten years later, reflections on the day still sting

Administrators and students vividly remember the shock and pain of September 11

9/11, from Page 1

he was on a boat in the middle of Lake Victoria, when he learned about the extent of the situation.

“I could not stop thinking about the irony of being in such a beautiful, pristine, natural place while slowly learning of the extent of the horror of the attacks in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania,” Vest said.

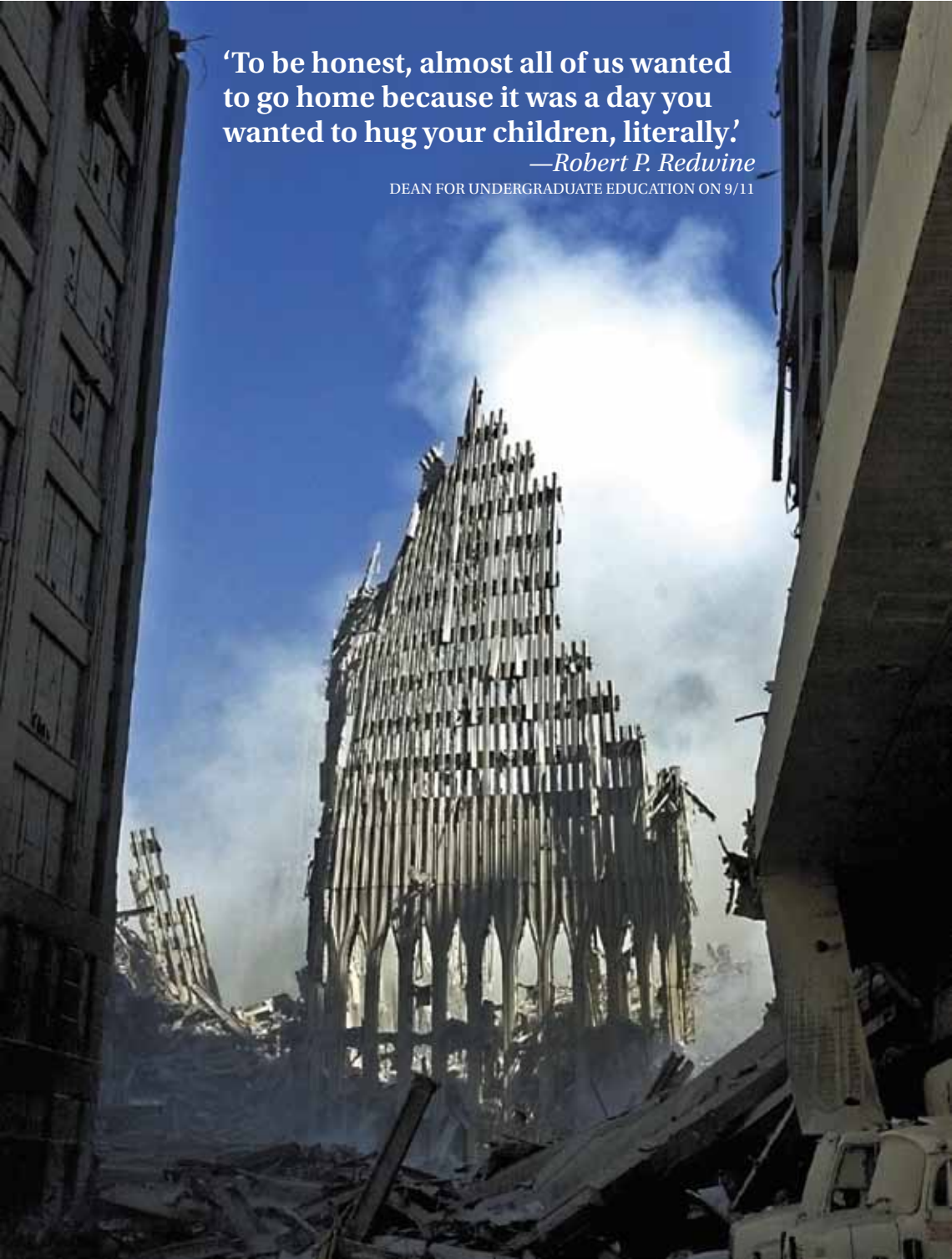
Continued conversation with MIT occurred via cell phone, landline, and “slow internet,” Vest said. He was able to call in to the key decision-making meetings, including the meeting where it was decided not to close the Institute. “In this, I was mindful that MIT had remained open in the aftermath of the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941,” he said.

Back in the U.S., Dana A. Levine ’02, then *The Tech*’s editor in chief, woke up at his fraternity while his brothers watched the news unfolding on the TV. The gravity of the situation didn’t really hit him, he says, until he got to his 9:00 class. Levine opened his laptop to get the latest news; CNN’s servers were so overwhelmed, the news site only offered one page of information about the attacks, Levine said.

Meanwhile, Willmore was driving across the Massachusetts Avenue bridge when she heard the news on NPR. Her instinct, like many, was that this was just a horrible accident. Once she arrived at her office, however, she learned otherwise. Calls and emails from faculty and staff poured in, asking how best to support the MIT community. News on the television and on the internet, as well as reports from Campus Police and other schools, kept Willmore’s office up-to-date on the developments.

At about the same time, Chancellor Philip L. Clay PhD ’75 was in a Japanese delegation meeting; there was noticeable tension outside his office when the meeting let out around 9:30. Soon thereafter, Willmore called a meeting of MIT’s crisis team, a group of the senior administration, the Director of Human Resources, the Chief of Campus Security, and others.

Professor Robert P. Redwine, then the Dean for Undergraduate Education, made his way to the President’s conference room for this meeting. On his way, he ran into Alexander V. d’Arbeloff ’49, then the chair of the MIT Corporation, who had just finished a lecture at Sloan. After a brief chat, Redwine realized d’Arbeloff knew nothing of the attacks. “I said, ‘Look, there’s something very important going on — I’m heading to a meeting. I think you should come



‘To be honest, almost all of us wanted to go home because it was a day you wanted to hug your children, literally.’

—Robert P. Redwine

DEAN FOR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION ON 9/11

ing at MIT and what kind of support was available,” she said. Willmore was the point person for this effort, working with Clay and Executive Vice President John R. Curry and remotely with Vest and Brown.

A web communications page was set up, and official messages, including some from Vest in Canada, were sent to the MIT community and students’ families throughout the day.

According to Redwine, “There were rumors that there were other

he said he just wanted to “look into this more,” and considered publishing an extra issue.

After Chairman Jordan Rubin ’02 agreed with Levine’s idea, *The Tech* got to work on its first extra issue since Dec. 10, 1999. As impressive a feat it was for an issue to be laid out and published in less than 24 hours, Levine said that it wasn’t chaotic: “I don’t remember there being a lot of rush.” He estimated that he only had to call a couple writers to get enough material.

Jennifer B. Kehoe ’04 entered the newsroom, her usual lunchtime hangout. Many *Tech* members were using the free phones in the newsroom to call family and friends — cell phones were not as widespread on college campuses in 2001 as they are today. She had just sat through her public policy lecture after watching the coverage of the attacks; the instructor had spent the entire hour on environmental policy.

During the business-as-usual lecture, Kehoe says she could not help but think, “I cannot believe this. How are you not talking about this major public policy issue?”

The mood in the newsroom was different. Instead of the usual p-set study groups and TV shows mixed with layout work, Kehoe said everyone was focused on the extra issue. “On that day, people were trying to do something. We’re not firefighters. We’re not CIA agents.” According to Kehoe, doing something she knew how to do was comforting.

A photographer joined Kehoe, then a sophomore and news editor, and the two sat outside the offices of the senior administration, waiting for a chance to talk to them for her article. “That was the only time I did that as a reporter,” Kehoe said.

That afternoon, she went to her

combinatorics class, one of her favorite classes at MIT. That day, the lecture covered the pigeonhole principle.

“I just left,” Kehoe said. “I wasn’t in a place to hear about something called the pigeonhole principle.”

One of Kehoe’s clearest memories from that week was a sheet of butcher paper posted in McCormick Hall where students could express their emotions. She remembered seeing the Prayer of St. Francis, which in-

JOURNALIST 1ST CLASS PRESTON KERES

Newman PhD ’92, the shock was too close for comfort.

She was setting up for a 9:30 graduate aerospace class in 33-116 when she learned about the first plane crash. As Newman said, “Here I am, teaching a bunch of aerospace engineers” who were unaware of the horror unfolding in the skies.

As her lecture came to an end, she was met by a crowd of Course 16 students and faculty waiting to use the A/V equipment in the classroom to watch the news. At that point, “they had better knowledge of what happened than we did,” she said.

Newman was scheduled to be on American Airlines Flight 11 headed to Los Angeles International Airport on Sept. 12 for a National Academy of Engineering conference. On Sept. 11, Flight 11 was the first plane to crash, flying straight into the North Tower.

Back in her office, Newman recalled feeling overwhelmed with this realization: “I was physically shaking. The ticket on my desk — it was there.”

Meanwhile, her husband, Guillermo Trotti, was in Trinidad. With the time difference, he said he “didn’t have his days right,” and grew concerned when he heard of Flight 11’s fate. He immediately tried to contact his wife, but “all the lines were busy. Everything was down. It was like trying to call South America 40 years ago. You just dial, dial, dial,” said Trotti, a native of Argentina. He was finally able to get in touch with Newman’s assistant, who reassured Trotti that Newman was safe.

When he finally got to talk to Newman, Trotti had a clear message: “My first instructions to her were, ‘You are not flying tomorrow. You are not going to that meeting.’” This was before they had heard of the grounded airlines.

Newman, on the other hand, felt that she still needed to go, but didn’t realize the state of air travel in the U.S. Yet she was traveling soon enough, flying to D.C. for another meeting within the next 10 days.

“It was strange going through the airport for the first time after the attacks,” she said. “There was not a feeling of safety.”

It took Trotti about a week to return to the States.

Vest also experienced frustrating delays. He and his wife cut their trip in Canada short and in less than a week got one of the earliest flights allowed across the border to Providence, RI. They then rented a car and drove the 50 miles to Boston.

“Vest was trying desperately to get back,” Redwine said.

“I had, and still have, strong feel-



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLES M. VEST

Then MIT President Charles M. Vest worked remotely from Banff, Canada, to help coordinate MIT’s response to the September 11 attacks.

cludes the following segment: *Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love;*

where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

According to Kehoe, the prayer gave her comfort, even though she didn’t know who put it on that butcher paper.

“People were mostly in shock. [They] didn’t perceive the magnitude. I know I didn’t,” Levine said.

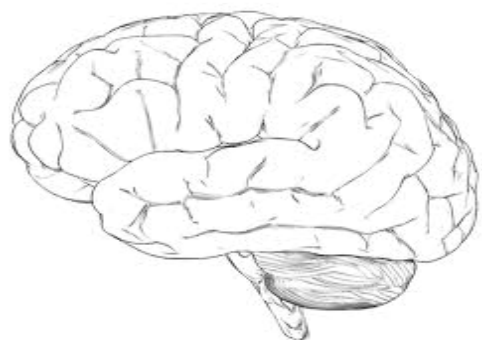
For Course 16 Professor Dava J.

ings of guilt about not being on the campus at a time when I knew there would be much angst, confusion, anger, sadness, and need for discussion,” Vest said.

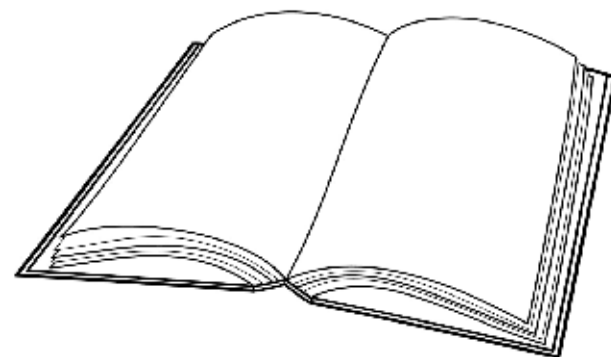
On the afternoon of Sept. 11, as a spontaneous vigil on the steps of the Student Center came to an end, Willmore asked a number of faculty to come back to the President’s office to discuss what should be done about classes. “It was agreed to hold classes but with the understanding that faculty should feel free to use that time in whatever way they thought would be

Coming together, Page 13

the



&



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Lithium batteries short out during travel

CSAIL package to Seattle catches fire in FedEx sorting facility

FedEx fire, from Page 1

“Smoke and flames were coming from the shipment while it was being transported on a conveyor belt,” the FAA said. Because of the chemistry of lithium batteries, which can provide their own oxygen, FedEx employees were unable to put out the fire with extinguishers.

The FAA said that MIT violated Department of Transportation Hazardous Materials Regulations (49 CFR §171-173) in 21 different ways. MIT is liable for \$250–\$50,000 for each violation, and the FAA proposed a total of \$175,000.

The FAA’s Notice of Proposed Civil Penalty (see related content online), dated Jul. 26, 2011, identifies the shipper as Lewis D. Girod, part of the SENSEable City Lab team which works on tracking trash with small transmitters. Girod had shipped the package to Professor Carlo Ratti, the director of the team, in Seattle. Last night, Ratti was travelling in Germany and could not be reached.

MIT’s response to the FAA is due on Sept. 16, after MIT requested and received an extension from the FAA’s 30-day deadline, according to FAA spokesman Jim Peters.

Girod said in an email: “The batteries were single-cell lithium polymer batteries and they were installed into prototype tracking devices. The devices were shipped without enclosures because they were going to be activated and potted at their destination. Several devices were packed next to each other with insufficient material separating them from each other.”

“During shipping,” Girod said, “a component of one device punctured the battery of another device next to it, causing an internal short. The two devices involved were badly charred but I believe that the others were unharmed.”

As a result of this incident, MIT’s Environmental Health and Safety office has increased its outreach efforts to attempt to ensure that MIT shippers are aware of the requirements for shipping hazardous materials, including batteries, said

William C. VanSchalkwyk, Managing Director of EHS.

Two days after the incident, EHS sent out a notice to administrative assistants and to department, lab, and center coordinators, to “raise awareness across campus” about the special requirements for shipping lithium batteries and equipment containing them.

“MIT has been extremely supportive throughout the event,” Girod said.

“MIT has taken very aggressive action in identifying those individuals within MIT who have responsibilities for shipping hazardous materials,” Peters of the FAA said.

According to the FAA notice, the proposed \$175,000 penalty includes a reduction for “corrective action” taken by MIT.

EHS is happy to help MIT users ship these materials, VanSchalkwyk said. “We’ll even ship it for you,” he said. “Just call the EHS main number [617-452-3477], and we’ll step you through the process.” He recommends three days’ advance notice.

Asked how many students and staff might still be shipping hazardous materials illegally, VanSchalkwyk said the number was “extremely low.”

“We have done some checking”

he said, and “we think the program is very effective.”

The FAA said there was no fixed timeline for the penalty process, but that the FAA was likely to issue a Final Notice of Proposed Civil Penalty, possibly within a few months. Before that point, MIT has several options, including paying the proposed the penalty; submitting evidence that the penalty is unwarranted; requesting a reduction of the penalty; or requesting an informal conference to discuss the matter with an FAA attorney.

VanSchalkwyk said that this was the first time MIT had been assessed a penalty by the FAA, but declined to comment on the frequency of penalties from other agencies. “We deal with all the environmental agencies,” he said, including federal, state, and local agencies, such as OSHA and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. “There are more than 200 regulatory programs” that affect MIT, he said.

An MIT spokesperson, Marta Buczek, declined to comment on the FAA proceedings, and could provide no information as to whether MIT had responded to the FAA.

“I’m very thankful that the fire occurred before it got on a plane and that nobody was injured,” Girod said. “And I always pack things of this sort carefully now.”

EVENTS

SEPT. 6 – SEPT. 12

FRIDAY

(4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.) Starr Forum: [Top Secret America](#), book talk by Dana Priest of the Washington Post — E14-674

(7:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m.) LSC shows *X-Men: First Class* — 26-100

SATURDAY

(7:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m.) LSC shows *X-Men: First Class* — 26-100

SUNDAY

(4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.) MIT’s Heritage of the Arts of Southasia presents presents Malladis/Gundechas, North/South vocal duet — Kresge Auditorium

(8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.) Folk Dancing Beginner’s Night — La Sala de Puerto Rico

MONDAY

(2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.) Nuclear and Particle Theory Seminar — 6C-442

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Solution to Techdoku

from page 7

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 4 |
| 6 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 2 |
| 3 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| 4 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 7 |
| 5 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 1 |
| 2 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| 7 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 3 |

Solution to Crossword

from page 7

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | L | A | M | O | | A | S | C | A | P | | S | C | I |
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| E | S | T | A | T | E | | R | E | D | S | T | A | R | |
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| U | L | C | E | R | | R | O | E | | N | E | C | | |
| S | Y | R | | S | C | A | B | | S | T | A | T | I | C |
| E | L | A | T | | U | S | O | F | A | | M | A | D | E |
| R | E | Z | O | N | E | | C | L | X | V | | N | O | R |
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| C | L | O | S | E | T | S | | | | T | I | N | H | A |
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| O | K | S | | T | R | I | E | R | | A | N | N | I | E |
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Solution to Sudoku

from page 7

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 5 |
| 2 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 7 |
| 5 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 6 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 2 |
| 9 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 8 |
| 8 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 9 |
| 7 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 4 |
| 4 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 1 |
| 1 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 3 |

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Google
defends its
huge use of
electricity

*Energy per user
actually small*

By James Glanz
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Google disclosed Thursday that it continuously uses enough electricity to power 200,000 homes, but it says that in doing so, it also makes the planet greener.

Every time a person runs a Google search, watches a YouTube video or sends a message through Gmail, the company's data centers full of computers use electricity. Those data centers continuously draw almost 260 million watts — about a quarter of the output of a nuclear power plant.

Until now, the company has kept statistics about its energy use secret. Industry analysts speculate it was because the information was embarrassing and would also give competitors a clue to how Google runs its operations.

While the electricity figures may seem large, the company asserts that the world is a greener place because people use less energy as a result of the billions of operations carried out in Google data centers. Google says people should consider things like the amount of gasoline saved when someone conducts a Google search rather than, say, drives to the library.

"They look big in the small context," Urs Hoelzle, Google's senior vice president of technical infrastructure, said in an interview.

Google says that people conduct more than 1 billion searches a day and numerous other downloads and queries. But when it calculates that average energy consumption on the level of a typical user, the amount is small, about 180 watt-hours a month, or the equivalent of running a 60-watt light bulb for three hours. The overall electricity figure includes all Google operations worldwide, like the energy required to run its campuses and office parks, Hoelzle added. Data centers, however, account for most of it.

For years, Google maintained a wall of silence worthy of a government security agency on how much electricity the company used — a silence that experts speculated was used to cloak how quickly it was outstripping the competition in the scale and efficiency of its data centers.

The electricity figures are no longer seen as a key to decoding the company's operations, said Hoelzle.

Unlike many data-driven companies, Google designs and builds most of its data centers from scratch, down to the servers using energy-saving chips and software.

Noah Horowitz, senior scientist at the Natural Resources Defense Council in San Francisco, applauded Google for releasing the figures but cautioned that despite the advent of increasingly powerful and energy-efficient computing tools, electricity use at data centers was still rising, because every major corporation now relied on them. He said the figures did not include the electricity drawn by the personal computers, tablets and iPhones that use information from Google.

"When we hit the Google search button," Horowitz said, "it's not for free."

Google also estimated that its total carbon emissions for 2010 were just under 1.5 million metric tons, with most of that attributable to carbon fuels that provide electricity for the data centers.

MIT community came together during aftermath

Professors held classes as an opportunity to let students talk about their thoughts, feelings

Coming together, from Page 9

most helpful to students,” Willmore said.

According to Willmore, the group also decided to hold an official vigil on Sept. 12. Afternoon classes were cancelled in order to invite the entire MIT community, which Clay announced in an e-mail to the MIT community the night before.

Clay’s objective for the vigil was to hold an event “where everyone could come,” regardless of religion or nationality. His intended message, “teaching the community to embrace each other rather than run from each other,” stressed that nothing had changed in the community.

As he said in a MIT150 Infinite History interview in 2008, “part of the effort was to remind the community that we were an intentional community that had chosen each other, and that the relationships that existed so well on September 10th needed to be preserved. And it was very important on the afternoon of the 11th, to reach out to Muslim students, quite directly and quite substantially, for them to participate in the community activity, and that when we put together the panel of clergy, that we include a Muslim clergy as well.”

“Muslim students were really afraid. They wanted to be in a safe community ... they just wanted to be MIT students!” Newman said.

Sergeant Cheryl N. Vossmer of the MIT Police said she remembers a Muslim student stopping her in Lobby 7 to ask if he and his wife were going to be safe.

While there was finger-pointing elsewhere in the country, Newman was proud that she sensed very little of that on campus: “Not at MIT. Our community’s here. We’re going to embrace everyone.” She remarked

that the events brought different peoples together in an overall mood of tolerance.

Chaplain Robert M. Randolph had asked MIT Police to protect the Religious Activities Center in case

was being planned on September 11, according to Randolph.

Willmore called the event “extraordinary.”

“It was truly wonderful — and so characteristic of MIT — how every-

one came together to help the campus cope with this tragedy, not just that day, but in the days, weeks and months that followed,” she said.

the time for a different purpose. She told her students that she was more interested in how they were feeling and just wanted to give the opportunity for them to talk about it.

While they tackled the Institute’s

‘It was truly wonderful — and so characteristic of MIT — how everyone came together to help the campus cope with this tragedy, not just that day, but in the days, weeks and months that followed.’

—Kathryn A. Willmore

VP AND SECRETARY OF THE MIT CORPORATION

of anger towards the Muslim community as a precaution, but there were never any issues. According to him, the purpose of the center, opened in 1995, was to build relationships amongst MIT’s religious communities. This, he said, contributed to MIT’s vibrant community that “accepted and honored” all its members.

About 5,000 students, faculty, and staff were present at the Sept. 12 Killian Court vigil, which was organized by the Board of Chaplains. As the MIT News Office reported in 2001, this was the largest turnout on Killian Court for an event — besides commencement — in 85 years. The program began with music, speeches, and a moment of silence. The assembly later broke into small groups of 10–15 people with over 120 faculty facilitators recruited the night before, leading discussions on the emotions felt by the community.

In the past, the Institute used a similar small group format for freshmen summer reading discussions, but “the idea of using [Killian Court] and gathering individuals, advisors, and faculty was an idea that came into bloom for that event” when it

one came together to help the campus cope with this tragedy, not just that day, but in the days, weeks and months that followed,” she said.

In an email sent just after 9 p.m. the night before to the MIT faculty, Clay, Redwine, Faculty Chair Stephen C. Graves, and Dean for Graduate Students Issac M. Colbert wrote, “Clearly, business as usual is not possible in the short term. While some have suggested that canceling classes and closing the Institute would be appropriate, we believe that at a time like this, contact between students, faculty, and staff is MIT’s greatest resource. We need to take advantage of this resource, which would be precluded if we close the Institute.”

The letter then went on to suggest that faculty devote class time to discussions, offer additional opportunities to meet with the students, or cancel classes if the time wouldn’t be used productively otherwise. For this, Newman admired the administration’s response. “It was handled well, to say ‘let’s just take time ... it was so darn shocking, let’s just talk about this.’”

Instead of cancelling her Thursday lecture, Newman decided to use

response to the situation, the administration, like seemingly everyone that day, was battling personal connections to the attacks. Clay’s daughter worked on 160th street in Manhattan. Vest’s son was the resident in charge of the ER at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York and his daughter lived in the DC area. Then Associate Provost Claude R. Canizares’ son was in a DC newsroom. All survived the attacks.

“What really hit home later was the impact on alumni, MIT Corporation members, and others who lost so many colleagues and friends, especially in New York. One trustee told me that he had spoken at something like 20 funeral services,” Vest said.

Willmore described how her outlook had changed since that morning drive across the Charles River when she first heard the radio reports: “I remember driving back into Boston over the Mass. Ave. bridge [that night], the city lights shining on the water as they do every night, and thinking that everything had changed, including the fact that there were no planes flying, not that

night and not for several days. Their absence was an eerie reminder of our vulnerability.”

Clay said he didn’t get back home until 10 p.m., more than three hours later than usual.

Redwine, on the other hand, spent the night on campus. The mid-morning administration meeting had led to a decision to keep one senior person on campus at all times.

“We were worried about communications getting even worse, so somebody needed to be around who would be able to make decisions, working with MIT Police if necessary,” Redwine said. He went home, grabbed a sleeping bag and something to eat, and returned to his office. He walked around campus, keeping in touch with the MIT Police. “In the end there was really nothing to worry about but we didn’t know that at the time,” Redwine said.

As she tried to cope with the situation, Kehoe says she felt most comfortable in small, familiar settings. After *The Tech’s* extra issue had been sent to the publisher, she went back to her room in McCormick and drank hot chocolate with her roommates.

‘People were mostly in shock. [They] didn’t perceive the magnitude. I know I didn’t.’

—Dana A. Levine ’02

FORMER TECH EDITOR IN CHIEF

“We had to go back to that community,” she explained.

In the days and weeks after the attacks, MIT’s story continued as the nation recovered in the aftermath.

Part Two of this article will be published on Tuesday, September 13.

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DormCon printed DC this year

Attempted to distribute REX guide at freshman check-in

REX, from Page 1

Other dorms held their planned events, albeit with diminished attendance.

Daily Confusion

In addition to the Hitchhiker's Guide and the REX Guide, the Daily Confusion — an alternative REX timetable — was distributed by DormCon to dormitories and in the Student Center. The Daily Confusion is a guide of funny and ironic dorm activities meant to “give dorms another way of communicating their unique sense of humor to freshmen,” according to Alicia T. Singham Goodwin '14, DormCon's vice president for REX.

Though the Daily Confusion is traditionally printed by *The Tech*, it was independently produced and distributed by DormCon this year. Until the DormCon-produced version this year, the Daily Confusion included mostly traditional REX activities, with some additional humorous event listings.

Tech Chairman Joseph R. Maurer '12 clarified why the Daily Confusion was not printed in *The Tech*: “We offered DormCon the same terms this year as we've offered the FSILGs and DormCon in recent years,” he said. “DormCon was concerned over the editing process and was uncomfortable with us editing the content to our standards. We weren't able to reach an agreement over the editing process, which is a shame because the Daily Confusion is a service we provide and we think it is a good one.”

“We think it is useful for the incoming freshmen,” Maurer added, “and we want to provide it again in the future.”

As in previous years, an edition of the Daily Confusion for FSILG rush was printed in *The Tech*.

DormCon's REX guide

DormCon also organized an in-house effort to distribute its REX guide to freshmen. “To ensure that all freshmen are well-informed about REX and have access to as much information as possible, we're going to have people waiting right outside the door to the check-in room handing out REX guides,” Singham Goodwin wrote in an email sent to each dorm's REX Chairs. “Please sign up for a 2 hour slot ... to volunteer to help [hand] out REX guides over the next week and a half.”

Young disapproved of DormCon's methods. “Students cannot just distribute materials,” she said. The proper procedure for student groups that wish to reserve a table on the first floor of the Student Center involves notifying the Campus Activities Complex (CAC) ahead of time to express interest. “There was plenty of space,” said Young. “DormCon just never expressed an interest in a timely fashion ... I met with [Singham Goodwin] many times and she never once said she was interested in having a table.”

“There is no reason DormCon needed to pass things out,” said Young. “This year, like the past ten years, we had the REX Guide on a table at the Orientation check-in — it was on a table.”

DormCon's presence apparently slowed down the incoming freshmen and hindered the efficiency of the check-in process. “Check-in is a business that has to happen for freshmen to be able to go through with the rest of Orientation ... we are here to help the next person to come in, get what they need, and go,” said

Young. “If students don't check in, there is no Orientation — we're a customer service ... [the freshmen] have to check in.”

Neither the Daily Confusion nor the REX Guide are included in the Orientation packet presented to freshmen at check-in. Instead, that packet includes the Hitchhiker's Guide and official information about the math diagnostic, freshman essay evaluation, and MIT's various learning communities.

“Our Orientation Guide is not

about highlighting specific programs,” said Young. “If we published everything in the DormCon REX Guide in the Hitchhiker's Guide, the things that students have to do would be lost.”

Despite REX-related complications, “Orientation was a great success,” said Daniel E. Hastings PhD '80, the Dean for Undergraduate Education. “I saw some of the students at a dorm [REX] event and it just looked like they were having a lot of fun.”

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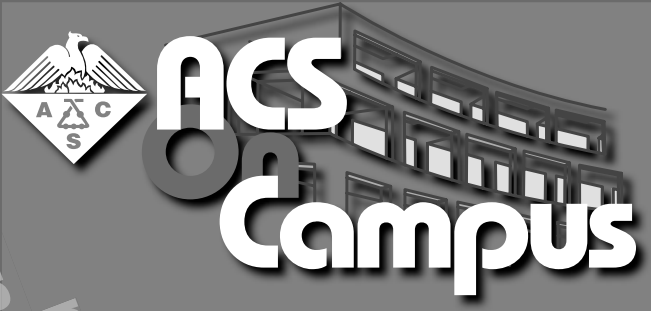
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